



Kosovo Evaluators Network



Romanian Society of Evaluators



**Albanian Association of
Programme Evaluators**

JOINT DECLARATION OF ENDORSEMENT FOR GLOBAL EVALUATION AGENDA 2016-2020 GEA2020

Following to the Call of Proposals 2016 under *EvalPartners Peer-to-Peer Grants Programme*, the Partnership comprising **RoSE - Romanian Society of Evaluators, ASPE- Albanian Association of Programme Evaluators and KEN - Kosovo Evaluators' Network**, has been awarded to implement on behalf of the Europe Region the Project *ARK2GEA - "Transnational Cooperation Romania-Albania-Kosovo Evaluation Towards the Implementation of the Global Agenda 2016-2020"*. This project provides the opportunity for our professional organizations of evaluators of three European countries to join forces for supporting the achievement of the inspiring vision of **Global Agenda for Evaluation 2016-2020 (GEA2020)** and to widespread its ownership in Romania, Albania, Kosovo and beyond.

EvalPartners, as a global community of practice intending to strengthen the national evaluation capacities worldwide, is a proud supporter of the GEA2020 which is based on the UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/69/237.

The present joint statement recognizes that evaluation can contribute to the improvement of our societies. By properly influencing policy and decision-makers, key stakeholders and public opinion, evaluation ensures that the righteous public policies, programs and processes are sound and evidence-based and lead to effective and equitable outcomes, improves the life of citizens and ultimately ensures a sustainable development. Nevertheless, we are aware that the evaluation culture has not yet reached its full potential in our countries.

This gap between the potential value of the evaluation and its current acceptance motivates RoSE, ASPE, and KEN, as the signatories of this statement, to work considerably more towards improving the quality and usefulness of the evaluation while promoting its benefits across all the segments of society, the public, private and voluntary sectors.

We anticipate that evaluation is not simply a value-neutral management tool. Our partnership is united by a common commitment to promote and support equitable and sustainable human and economic development. We encourage processes and evaluation criteria based on values of equity, gender and social justice, as well as common principles of partnership, innovation, inclusion, human and social capital.

Therefore, we declare our support for the evaluation priorities of the Global Evaluation Agenda 2016-2020. We understand that the principle of the "*no one left behind*", stated in GEA2020, is a key value that crosses the three pillars of an effective evaluation system namely a supportive environment, institutional of individual capacities.

Therefore, we endorse and are fully committed to the following GEA2020 objectives:

1. Strengthen the enabling environment for evaluation, in order to:

- ensure that all sectors of society understand and appreciate the value of the evaluation
- produce evaluation maps of the status of evaluation for Romania, Albania, and Kosovo with relevant recommendations for action
- explicitly include evaluation through national assessment policies and other government regulatory instruments
- provide sufficient resources for evaluation

- uses credible data systems and accessible databases to make evaluation results accessible in real-time
- engage other key stakeholders in the usage of evaluation information at cross-country level
- increase the demand and role of civil society organizations in the evaluation
- recognize evaluation as a profession.

2. Increase the knowledge and capacity building to ensure that enough high-ranked institutions, including but not limited to, *voluntary organizations for professional evaluation (VOPEs)*, center and local government institutions, universities and institutions that generate and share useful data and that are able to:

- promote and facilitate quality impact assessments
- develop the skills needed to collaborate with other relevant and involved institutions
- fund quality data and assessments, make information readily available, and promote traceability of the findings and recommendations of the evaluation
- consistently develop the scope of evaluation and its progress
- support the evaluation research
- organize professional trainings in evaluation to ensure appropriate number of qualified evaluators.

3. Strengthen VOPEs capacity with multi-stakeholders' networks to:

- enhance their capacity and role to influence the enabling environment for evaluation
- disseminate the importance of evaluation
- be strategic and inclusive in the solicitation of their members and in their internal management needs
- engage in peer learning and exchange between countries and through International Organization for Cooperation in Evaluation (IOCE)
- endorse the Global Evaluation Agenda 2016-2020 objectives and principles.

4. Strengthen individual capacities of evaluators, commissioners and evaluation users, in so doing:

- Commissioners and users of the evaluation to develop:
 - a solid understanding of the value of the evaluation
 - a proactive and positive disposition of the evaluated bodies to the professionals who evaluate them
 - a comprehensive process for conducting impartial and high quality evaluations
 - a stronger commitment to using the findings and recommendations of the evaluation and following up on those.
- Evaluators from various relevant disciplines are available to conduct high-quality assessments in all countries:
 - possess the knowledge, skills, and necessary capacity to properly use the generally accepted principles, theories, methods and approaches to evaluation, and the subjects assessed
 - integrate the values of equity, gender equality, social justice and the protection of the environment in accordance with culturally sensitive criteria and respecting the principles of partnership, innovation, inclusion and of human rights
 - commit to lifelong learning and capacity building.

5. Last but not the least, we support the links between the above dimensions by working in a participatory approach with governments, parliaments, VOPEs, international organizations, civil society, private sector, universities and other interested groups to:

- dedicate resources to joint ventures in the conduct of evaluations and innovation in evaluation, as well as in capacity building for evaluation
- participate in the development of a set of common terms in all languages to disseminate and share knowledge in evaluation
- attend national and international learning events.

We, the Romanian Society of Evaluators (RoSE), the Albanian Association Programme Evaluators (ASPE), and the Kosovo Evaluations Network (KEN), on 25th of February 2017 formally declare and endorse our support for the Global Evaluation Agenda 2016-2020.